

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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By JOHN McELROY

### CHAPTER LXVII.

The grim Norse mythology always had a malevolent god, which later became the devil of medieval and modern literature, whose function it was to turn every scene of rejoicing into one of wailing. No matter what unanimity of joy and gladness there might be in the halls of Valhalla, Loki, the wicked one, was sure to contrive some way to change the laughter into weeping. In fact, all demography has some powerful god who loves wickedness for its own sake, turns with rancor at the sight of happiness, and is keen with devices to transform joy into gloom.

In the midst of the outpouring thankfulness and delight of the people there was just as dark and sinister a plot brewing to transform this into grief as ever the savage old Sagas of the Norsemen described. Only in this case the malevolent spirit was almost at a world's distance from being a lesser god like Loki or an archangel like Lucifer.

In all that goes to make up a man John Wilkes Booth was far below the

demerit of William C. Cleary, Prof. Holcomb, George Harper and others. This cabal was in constant communication with the Government at Richmond, and was well supplied with money placed to the credit of Jacob Thompson, who made the Ontario Bank of Montreal a sub-treasury of the Confederacy in Canada, and received his funds in the shape of Southern bills of exchange on London. They it was who planned and executed the scheme of starting with infected clothing epidemics of yellow fever and smallpox in the seaport cities and Chicago. They engaged and fitted out the raids by which the St. Alban banks were plundered and two citizens murdered; they started and fitted out the Boal raid on Lake Erie to capture steamers and release the prisoners on Johnson's Island; they were the fomenters of the New York draft riots, and their scheme to burn Chicago, and free the prisoners at Camp Douglas came only too near execution. It is known that as early as October, 1864, John Wilkes Booth and John H. Surratt visited this cabal of murderous plotters in Canada, and probably received instructions from them as to the black deed in prospect. The cabal was

became a contractor on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, and made some money, with which he returned to Maryland, bought another farm, upon which he established a tavern, had the post office located there and later became Postmaster. The couple had three children, a daughter and two sons. One of the boys entered the Confederate army, and remained in it during the war. The younger son, John H. Surratt, was a student at St. Charles College, in Maryland, became an ardent secessionist, but did not enter the army.



JOHN WILKES BOOTH.

It was felt that he could be of more service by staying at home, and during the earlier years of the war he was by times a spy and courier, carrying dispatches from one place to another, and an agent of the blockade-running line between Baltimore and Richmond. His thorough knowledge of the lower part of Maryland, lying between the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay, was of the greatest value in this service. His mother's family, the Surratts, were a prominent station for his work. In the Fall of 1864 Mrs. Surratt, who had become a widow some time before, rented her farm to John H. Surratt, then a tall, slender man of about 32 years of age, was thought up in the Richmond authorities to be capable of still better service and was sent to Canada. When Booth and Surratt first came together, it was not known, and as many conflicting statements have been made by Surratt himself, as well as others, that the truth will never be known. It is likely that they met in Canada, where both were visiting the Thompson cabal, or that they became acquainted in one of Booth's drinking bouts at some secession resort in Washington. The man who impressed everyone as being the most desperate and dangerous of the conspirators was Lewis Payne, a native of Maryland, who had been in Florida. Lewis and his two brothers were in the Confederate army. The



THE WASHINGTON HOME OF MRS. SURRATT, WHERE THE CONSPIRATORS MET AND PLANNED THE ASSASSINATION.

average of American manhood. To-day his type of men are mostly known as business idols, rather than as the young fellows, handsome-faced, of slender intellectuality and ambition, to whom the admiration of silly girls seems the best thing life can offer. John Wilkes Booth's father was Junius Brutus Booth, an English actor of decided genius for Shaksperian performances, but an irresponsible inebriate, whose eccentricities frequently reached actual insanity. John Wilkes Booth grew up in the theater as his father's dresser and attendant. The father had spasmodic intentions to make a great actor of his handsome son, but the material was not there. The young man's strongest later was for wearing fine clothes, posing as a Beau Brummel, winning easily susceptible feminine hearts, varying periods of prolonged drunkenness by attending on the stage and the fashionable promenades as a gentleman. He was not known to have any real convictions or principles of any kind. He sympathized with secession because the society of Baltimore, Washington and Richmond, whose cities he most frequented, were strongly secessionist, and he wished to appear in that world. His devotion to secession, however, had never been so strong as to take him into the Confederate army, so far as is known, to have done anything in its behalf that would involve risk, hardship or personal inconvenience. It is said that he went with the militia companies to Harper's Ferry at the time of the John Brown raid, but this does not imply that he did any real soldierly duty. The assembling of the militia at Harper's Ferry purposed more of the character of a picnic than of the sober reality of war, since it quickly became known that there were only about 20 deluded men gathered around the old Osawatimie fanatic.

To those who really knew the idle, purposeless, dissipated actor, already beginning to slide down the swift decline to which whiskey leads manhood, John Wilkes Booth was about the last man that could be trusted for the colossal crime that he is supposed to have planned.

### Was It Planned by Others?

There is much evidence, but how conclusive we will not now say, that this plan did not originate with Booth, but was instilled into him—as such crimes usually are—by men of far stronger brains and more vehement purpose. During the later years of the war there was a group of malevolent conspirators in Canada, who hesitated at no crime which would afflict loyal people. The head of this cabal was Jacob Thompson, who had been Secretary of the Treasury under Buchanan's Administration, and had become deeply involved in the robbery of the Indian bonds. Next to him was Clement C. Clay, who had been Senator from Alabama; Beverly Tucker, Circuit Judge in Virginia at one time; George N. San-

born, a part of the Knights of the Golden Circle, and with its grips, passwords and countersigns secured ready communication for its spies with all parts of the North, safe transit for them thru loyal territory, and full information as to the plans of our civil and military administrations. It seems altogether likely that Booth and Surratt had outlined to them plans for abducting the President or for murdering him, and were instigated to attempt the crime.

### The Fellow-Conspirators.

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### THE OLD VAN NESS MANSION, WHERE LINCOLN WAS TO HAVE BEEN SEQUESTERED.

The evidence brought out at the trial of the conspirators gives us all the information we have as to those directly implicated in the plot, and the tragedy. The one closest to Booth from the first was John H. Surratt, son of Mrs. Mary E. Surratt, a widow 45 years of age. Mrs. Surratt was born and reared in Prince George County, Md., and was considered a belle in her youth. Her father was a small slaveholder, and in 1835 she was married to John H. Surratt, and went to live with him on a farm which they worked with the help of two or three slaves. The story goes that they were cruel to these that one of them set fire to the house and burned it down. Surratt afterwards



MRS. MARY E. SURRATT.

two brothers were killed and Lewis wounded and taken prisoner at Gettysburg. Upon conviction he was employed as a nurse until he slipped away and rejoined the Confederate army, where, however, he remained only a short while, when he deserted and fled to Baltimore. He was a big fellow, with the figure of an athlete, low forehead, coarse black hair and dark gray eyes. His face was bearded, and his hands were not those of a man accustomed to manual work. He was the most striking looking of all the conspirators, and at the trial the observed of all observers. Both face and figure proclaimed him the powerful, resolute creature he had proved himself to be. In Baltimore he met Booth, and became his accomplice apparently at once.

The next of the conspirators was David E. Herold, a Maryland boy, with education sufficient to make him an in-

different drug clerk. He had a stupid, cowardly face and an irresolute, cowardly look. His employers found him irresponsible and trifling. He was 23 years of age, but more like a boy than a man.

George A. Atzerodt was born in Germany 33 years before, but had been brought up in Charles County, Md., and was by trade a coach painter. He began blockade running, which he kept up until he became involved in the conspiracy. He is described as a short, thick-set, round-shouldered man of stupid, heavy appearance, with straggling sandy whiskers and mustache. He was

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## CONGRESS MARKING TIME.

Not Doing Much Business Before the Holidays—A Host of Recess Appointments—The New Associate Justice—Opposition to Low Tariff Democrats as Treasury Officials.

They are marking time in Washington. Adjournments for three days at a time—the longest period allowed under the Constitution without the concurrence of the two houses—are the order of the day in Senate and House. Congressmen are students of the calendar, looking forward to those two big holidays, Christmas and New Year's, and the two New Year's is the bigger official day, because the official season is then formally ushered in with the big reception at the White House, the gift of the first official New Year's of the Taft Administration.

The Senate every three days is having a high old time at morning business, and outwardly it is the only business the public sees when the Senate is in session. When a Senator has a bill providing for the payment of \$2.50 to Bill Smith of Podunk because the great coat-defense gun at the nearby Army fort shook his windows and broke a few panes of glass, said Senator rises in his seat, waves the bill aloft, which brings a page scurrying to his place, and addressing the Vice President announces his bill. The bill is then read in high-sounding tones the title of the bill.

Hours and hours are consumed every afternoon when the Senate meets during the early part of the session with the business of the day, and during their turns of recognition. An hour is allotted to this "morning business," which comprises not only the introduction of bills, but also the reading of resolutions and memorials and the like.

If the House followed that method, the daily sessions would have to be much longer, and the business would have to be curtailed. For there are 500 more members in the House than in the Senate, and the number of bills introduced there is almost proportionately larger. So one must depend upon the proceedings of the House for an entire season without hearing anything in the addresses of members about introducing bills. The House is more of a "bill" machine, just as effective. When Representative John Doe comes to introduce a bill to pay Bill Smith, of Podunk, \$2.50 for damages to his windows, he either tramps up to the clerk's desk himself or calls a page, who deposits the bill in an ordinary desk basket. There is no more to it than that. The proper reference of the measure to a committee, but no announcement of the reference is made to the House. One record of the next morning that John Doe offered the bill, and it was referred to the Committee on Claims.

### Recess Appointments.

The Senate, apart from holding its usual "morning hours" is giving a little time to executive business, and chiefly for the purpose of confirming the big batch of nominations which President Taft has sent in since Tuesday, Dec. 7. There have been hundreds of these nominations, most of them coming what is technically known as "recess appointments." When the President selects a man for a Federal place where the commission depends upon the "advice and consent of the Senate," he sends the nomination to the Senate, if Congress is in session, and the nominee does not take office until the Senate has confirmed or rejected. But if Congress is not in session, the President makes an appointment, not a nomination, and issues a temporary commission. This is followed as soon as Congress convenes by the usual nomination to the Senate.

With the growth of the Government and the increase in Federal patronage Presidents invariably have to make many recess appointments. In the course of four months of recess the period between the adjournment of the extra session and the convening of the regular session, there were literally hundreds of recess appointments. In many cases these confirmations are not very perfunctory. The promotion of an Army Captain to Major has been confirmed, for instance, by a meeting of that committee must be held, with a quorum present, unless the expedient of recess appointments is adopted. The nomination reported back favorably, and then a confirming vote taken by the Senate before the Army officer gets his commission.

The Senate ratifies many of these confirmations thru in record pace; but, all the same, the executive sessions occupy a prominent place in the work of the Senate in these days when Congress is marking time. Just now the confirmation of nominations, which the President and members of his Cabinet have agreed upon, often only after long deliberation and extensive inquiry, is the only big business being transacted in the Senate. Nine-tenths of the nominations go thru without a hitch, either in the committee to which they are referred or in the Senate, but sometimes there is a rowdy show of opposition, and this session has been no exception in that regard. The executive proceedings, however, have been in the main pacific.

### The New Associate Justice.

The big nomination of them all has been that of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. President Taft, after much deliberation and much inquiry into the charges of opposition has nominated Circuit Judge Horace H. Lurton, of Tennessee, to an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. His long-time friendship for Judge Lurton from several years of association with him upon the bench overcame all the things that critics brought forward against him.

With the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has to pass upon this nomination, the chief objection was that Judge Lurton is 66 years old, said to be the oldest man ever nominated for law, and that he is an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. But while ordinarily Justices of the Supreme Court are eligible for retirement when they become 70 years of age, Judge Lurton has 10 years of service, and apparently Judge Lurton must serve full term. But the retirement provision is a matter of law, not of the Constitution, and it is not improbable that some exception might be made in case of the new Justice to let him serve for 10 years. Then the question might be raised whether his long service as a Circuit Judge ought not to count.

The opposition to Judge Lurton has

been exceptionally strong, but apparently will avail nothing. He is a Democrat, and was appointed to the Circuit Bench as such by President Cleveland. The Rooseveltians have been busy charging that he is a reactionary. The labor leaders have asserted that his decisions were uniformly against them. The air has been filled with statements about his friendliness to the railroads and about his having ridden in the old days, when passes were not forbidden, in private cars that did not cost him a cent.

President Taft undoubtedly knows Judge Lurton personally better than any of the critics of the nomination, and he knows these unfriendly charges. "If I don't nominate him now," the President said a few days before the nomination was sent to the Senate, "I never shall have the opportunity to do it again."

### Secretary MacVeagh's Turn.

Every man of President Taft's Cabinet seems destined to have his hour of quarter of an hour with Congress or the public in some other authority. Secretary MacVeagh, as head of the Interior Department, has been kept in hot water for months because of the criticisms of the Pinchot enthusiasts. Secretary of State Knox has had his troubles with that Minister to China whom he summarily deposed, and so it goes.

This last week Secretary MacVeagh had his turn. He went to Boston to make a speech before a bankers' association, and emphasized the idea that the Aldrich-Payne tariff law was only a stop forward, but that the Republican Party had executed a right-about-face, and was going to reduce tariffs gradually in the course of a series of years. Secretary MacVeagh did not attempt to give the details as to how this would be done, but he made it plain that the tariff board would be the instrumental force in reducing rates that may be proven too high.

Just about that time the Finance Committee of the Senate was soon to take up several Treasury nominations. Among these were that of James F. Curtis, a young Democrat of Boston, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and among them also was the nomination of R. E. Cabell, a young Republican of Richmond, Va., to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Both young men are now holding office under recess appointments, but the President has sent their nominations to the Senate for confirmation, and these must be confirmed or rejected by the Senate.

The Finance Committee does not altogether like the idea of having a Democrat, like Mr. MacVeagh, at the head of the Treasury Department, and neither does the committee like the idea of placing a young man, much less a Democrat, in charge of the administration of customs, and among them also was the nomination of R. E. Cabell, a young Republican of Richmond, Va., to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Both young men are now holding office under recess appointments, but the President has sent their nominations to the Senate for confirmation, and these must be confirmed or rejected by the Senate.

While tariff laws are very rigidly drawn, there are thousands of little loopholes. The Treasury Department makes numerous regulations and rules with the hope of plugging up these loopholes that Congress has left, but even then shrewd men find many ways of getting around the regulations. And the man who has much to say about the framing of the regulations and the decisions on individual cases is the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of the administration of customs.

### Curtis Likely to Be Confirmed.

The Finance Committee has long taken the stand that it should be consulted about the selection of that official. President Taft, however, in his term first gave the Finance Committee a case of shivers when he nominated for Assistant Secretary to have charge of customs a redoubtable Bostonian, Mr. Armstrong, who had been private secretary to Secretary Shaw. The Finance Committee fought that nomination hard, but there resulted a series of compromises, and it was finally agreed that Mr. Armstrong should be confirmed. There was nothing against him personally, just as now there is nothing personally against Mr. Curtis. But the Finance Committee is composed of old and seasoned politicians, the majority being Republicans with a good business training in immediate charge of the enforcement of the tariff law.

They are likely to confirm Mr. Curtis, but probably not till after the holidays, and not until Mr. Curtis has been impressed with the authority of the Finance Committee and has been made acquainted with its purposes in framing the tariff law as it did.

It is significant that the committee was fighting the nomination of Mr. Cabell at the same time, because Mr. Cabell bears the same relation to the internal revenues that Mr. Curtis does to the customs, and from customs and from internal revenue the Government derives practically all of its income. Mr. Cabell, like Mr. Curtis, is still in the 60's, but unlike Mr. Curtis, he is a seasoned politician. He has ideas about keeping Senators and Representatives at a distance which does not please the Finance Committee. The Internal Revenue Service offers many patronage opportunities, and in the big internal revenue States the politicians have been able to take care of many of their friends. As Commissioner Cabell has been disposed to curtail the rights of Congressmen in these patronage matters, they are trying to strike back at him. But it appears that Mr. Cabell is likely to be confirmed after the holidays.

And incidentally the Finance Committee is disposed to impress Secretary MacVeagh a little with the idea that this is a Republican Administration and with the idea that a Secretary of the Treasury under a Republican Administration ought to keep the protective principle constantly in mind. The standard Republicans resented Mr. MacVeagh's Boston speech, and they resent



## A Good Man Being Neglected.

his outspoken methods. They know that he was for years a low-tariff Democrat, altho he voted for Taft in the last election, and they wish he would not emphasize his views so much, as those views are apt to be taken under the circumstances for the views of the Republican Administration.

### Wants New Blood in the Treasury.

The Secretary believes in getting new blood into the Treasury service, and while he is well advanced in years himself he has chosen for his three Assistant Secretaries very young men, two of whom is over 40 years old. One of these Assistants, Mr. Charles D. Norton, had attained prominence in financial circles in Chicago, and is becoming Secretary MacVeagh's alter ego. To Mr. Norton the Secretary intrusts a vast amount of detail, much of which has hitherto been attended to by the Secretary himself. The critics are fond of saying that Mr. Norton runs the Department, altho that is hardly true. Secretary MacVeagh runs his own Department, quite as much as did any other Secretary of the Treasury, and he insists upon having his ideas followed.

The President is satisfied with him, and continues to intrust Mr. MacVeagh to the fullest extent with the performance of all duties pertaining to his Department. President Taft is well known at the very start that his subordinates were to have the choice of their subordinates, as he proposed to hold his Cabinet members responsible for the conduct of their respective Departments. Therefore, Secretary MacVeagh takes the responsibility for the subordinates whom he has chosen and whom the Finance Committee is very slow about confirming. The only criticism the Senate seems disposed to make of President Taft is for appointing Mr. MacVeagh Secretary of the Treasury. That criticism, however, is very largely partisan, for all men at Washington have sneeringly said that Mr. MacVeagh is a man who is really of Cabinet rank, and that he is a statesmanlike manner. Therefore, when a standstill Republican nowadays makes a decision on individual cases is the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of the administration of customs.

## THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

It is Being Worked Out By the President, Cabinet and the Leading Senators and Representatives.

The three sessions of Congress for the first week raised questions of wide interest about future policies and procedures. Unless the signs fall a second week of a graying and confining is not going to clear the atmosphere materially. Only the New Year will mark any decisive steps forward, if indeed there is to be much progress beyond the appropriation bills.

The leaders of Senate and House have been busy laying plans, throwing up defenses and mapping out campaigns; but the hundreds of plain Senators and Representatives who are only soldiers in the ranks have had a thumb-twirling time of it. There is little or nothing for them to do. Of course, it is well enough to point to the Departmental errands, but after all, a live Congressman is doing a great deal of mental errands in one forenoon, and a day or two a week suffices to keep up to date with the requests of constituents.

Congressmen have the same weakness as the rest of human kind about emphasizing the arduous character and tremendous importance of their duties in Washington. But in these modern days there is not one Congressman in 20 at Washington who is hurrying himself with work. A few men on the big committees do the bulk of the work. The rest find time hanging heavily on their hands from the moment they come here in December till they get away in the Spring or early Summer. Washington is to them a sort of winter resort, where they can come to keep in agreeable company and be in the thick of things, and, of course, participate in legislation. Most of the Congressmen prefer to have a part in what is doing, but the leaders do not give them the opportunity.

Accordingly, these Congressmen are waiting for things to turn up. They go to the Capitol every day, listen to

the latest gossip, watch for indications as to the trend, and in the majority of cases fall into line for whatever program may be determined upon. And that is what they are doing now. There are exchanges of opinion, with which the leaders keep informed. They gage the sentiment of the rank and file, who have votes to give in support of this and that proposition or against it, and govern themselves accordingly.

The President's delay in handing out his views about the legislation of the Winter is in part responsible for the colorless condition of affairs, but even had he announced those views in his annual message it is open to question whether there would have been much more progress before the holidays. And it should also be said that the comprehensive discussion of matters ahead will in the end probably be beneficial, and quite as much may have been accomplished by the end of January or February. It is a pity that what has happened has been the entire gist of business being plumped right before the lawmakers in a heap.

How, just now, when everybody is drifting along, the critics put in hard licks, and find an opportunity to proclaim that the start is with such a lack of energy little is to be expected that the leaders do not want much legislation anyway, and that the President is falling in with their ideas. The program certainly has been curtailed since President Taft returned from his Western trip; but, perhaps yet, enough of it will go thru to enable the Republicans to say they have made a gratifying advance in enacting the President's recommendations into law.

President Taft favors giving all sides a hearing on whatever proposition he has in hand. That comes from his long judicial training and is in the interest of fair play. It is what he is now doing with every big measure he and his Attorney-General are framing for the legislative branch. And so it is that Washington is filled with representatives of the railroads and of every corporation affected by the proposed legislation. These arrivals have made Washington a busier center for these interested visitors than has been seen in the days of the memorable railroad-rate regulation fight. They are directing their steps toward the Department of Justice, and are holding their long talks with Attorney-General Wickersham and also with Solicitor Lloyd Bowers.

But when the President has listened patiently to the representatives of his Cabinet officers and also of the few representatives of the corporations who get to him from time to time, it is also likely that he will send his special messengers, but he will be able to tell the leaders in the Senate and the House what he has decided upon. He will definitely. Not only will he send in his special messengers, but he will be able to tell the leaders in the Senate and the House what he has decided upon. He will definitely. Not only will he send in his special messengers, but he will be able to tell the leaders in the Senate and the House what he has decided upon. He will definitely.

When that stage is reached the Committee of Senate and House that are expected to begin their deliberations early on the Taft measures will go ahead, and there will be live times at the Capitol. Already stated, and probably will not come about till after the holiday recess, but that will be in plenty of time.

## NICARAGUAN AFFAIRS.

Gov. Creel, of Mexico, Here, Trying to Adjust Matters.

One of the very notable arrivals in Washington of recent days is that amiable and capable Mexican, Senor Don Enrique C. Creel, formerly Ambassador here at Washington, but now Governor of the State of Chihuahua. The fact that he comes here is a confirmation of his Government and that his mission is really to keep the United States and Nicaragua from going to war add to the interest of his appearance in this city at this time.

For Secretary of State Knox has been pressing so aggressively against President Zelaya's policy that it is necessary to make a state of war, which Congress would have to recognize eventually by the authorization of hostilities. Every few days additional warships are being sent to either the Atlantic or the Pacific Coast of Nicaragua. The Isthmian Canal Zone is being made a place of rendezvous for a big force of marines. The Navy Department is now able to start an army of about 2,000 marines against Nicaragua. As that little country has no navy, the jackies on the ships could also be safely put ashore to swell the forces of an army of invasion. The massing of these forces of marines and jackies in the vicinity of Nicaragua has seemed necessary because of reports that President Zelaya was gaining the ascendancy, and that Gen. Juan